

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9206

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EFIN, GR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN TAXATION OF USG EXPENDITURES ABROAD

REF: STATE 138694

1. THE TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT OF FEB. 4, 1953, COVERING EXPENDITURES OF US FORCES IN GREECE HAS NOT BEEN APPLIED CONSISTENTLY BY THE GOG, ALTHOUGH MOST PROVISIONS CONTINUE TO RETAIN THEIR VALIDITY. HOWEVER, THE TAX RELEIF AGREEMENT IS AMONG THE SEVERAL AGREEMENTS CALLED INTO QUESTION BY THE GREEK NEGOTIATING TEAM IN HE BILATERAL BASE NEGOTIAIONS WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1975. IN PARTICULAR, THE SUBGROUP ON SOFA QUESTIONS IN FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE DEALING WITH THE GREEK CHALLENGE TO THE CONTINUED VALIDITY OF THE TAX RELEIF AGREEMENT.

2. BECAUSE THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH TAXATION IN US DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR EXPENDITURES, IN LIGHT OF WORKING-LEVEL BASE RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL ABSORB KNOWLEDGE-ABLE PERSONNEL DURING THE PROJECTED TIME OF THE VISIT, AND SINCE THE CHALLENGE TO THE EXISTING TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT HAS YET TO BE DEFINED IN THE WORK OF THE SOFA SUBGROUP, WE RECOMMEND THAT VISIT OF MEMBERS OF STATE/DEFENSE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TAX RELIEF BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE FALL OR EARLY WINTER.

KUBISCH

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